

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been amended to correct misspellings introduced during translation. Specifically, the specification has been amended at page 5, line 4, page 15, line 4, and Tables 1 and 2, to replace "Daiyutan gum" with --Diutan gum--; and at page 6, line 7, and page 11, line 3, to replace "Kelcocreet" with--KELCO-CRETE®--.

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Priority Claim

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicant's priority claim and indicate receipt of certified copy of priority document. In this regard, the Notice of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C. 371 and 37 C.F.R. 1.495 indicates receipt of priority documents on February 16, 2006.

II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,458,192 to Tsujo.

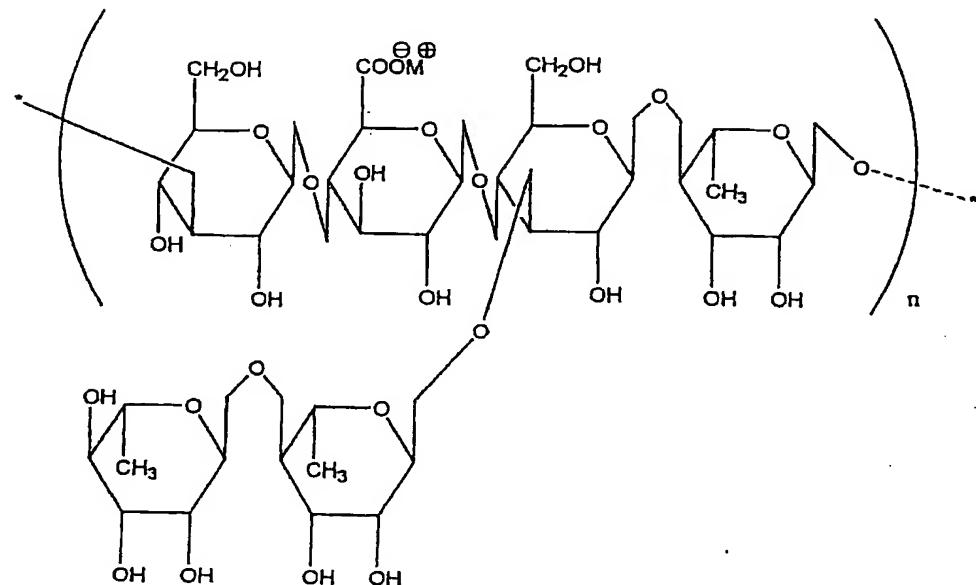
Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Saccharides are produced from various plants, sea-weeds, fungi, etc. Therefore, there are various kinds of saccharides.

Present claim 1 is direct to a water-based ink composition characterized by containing 0.01 to 1.0 % by weight of high molecular saccharides represented by Formula 1 (wherein M represents alkali metal or alkaline earth metal selected from the group consisting of sodium,

potassium and $\frac{1}{2}$ calcium, and n is 10^2 to 10^{10} , and having a molecular weight of 10^5 to 10^{13}) as an essential component in the ink composition:

Formula 1



The presently claimed ink composition can provide unexpected results. Particularly, the present specification describes comparative data obtained in Examples 1-4 and Comparative Examples 1-7 (Tables 1 and 2). As the results show (Table 3), Examples 1-4 in accordance with the presently claimed invention, provided excellent writing property and flowability under both low temperature and high temperature atmospheres, as compared to Comparative Examples 1-7, which employed conventional viscosity-reduced sharing property-donating agents. When a conventional ink comprising a saccharide is stored at low or high temperature atmosphere, it would lose stability. On the other hand, the presently claimed ink composition can provide unexpectedly superior long term stability under both low temperature and high temperature atmospheres.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

III. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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